IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): The monosodium salt of 3-pyridyl-1-hydroxyethylidene-1,1- bisphosphonic acid in an amorphous form, having the X-ray diffraction pattern showing a characteristic broad obtuse peak at 2θ angles ranging from 15 to 25 °, and, optionally, two sharp peaks at 2θ angles of 5.856 and 6.99°.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The monosodium salt of 3-pyridyl-1-hydroxyethylidene-1,1- bisphosphonic acid in an amorphous form according to claim 1, having a characteristic broad obtuse peak at 2θ angles ranging from 17.4 to 20.2°.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The monosodium salt of 3-pyridyl-1-hydroxyethylidene-1,1- bisphosphonic acid in an amorphous form according to claim 1, having bands at 3084, 2936, 1633, 1051 and 120 cm^{-1} in the Raman spectrum and expanded bands at 139, 125, 75 and 37 ppm in the ^{13}C CP MAS NMR spectrum.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The monosodium salt of 3-pyridyl-1-hydroxyethylidene-1,1- bisphosphonic acid in an amorphous form according to claim 1, having two sharp peaks at 2θ angles of 5.856 and 6.99 °, a broad band at 2θ 17.6 °, and a plateau without peaks between 2θ angles of 23 - 35 °.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The monosodium salt of 3-pyridyl-1-hydroxyethylidene-1,1- bisphosphonic acid in an amorphous form according to claim 4, having expanded bands at 3085, 2786, 2379, 1561, 1212 and 809 cm^{-1} in the IR spectrum and expanded bands at 137.9, 124.5, 73.6, 36.8 ppm in the ^{13}C CP MAS NMR spectrum.

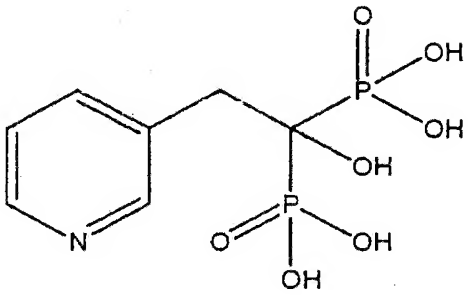
Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The monosodium salt of 3-pyridyl-1-hydroxyethylidene-1,1- bisphosphonic acid in an amorphous form according to claim 3, having the water content of 0 to 7 % by weight.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The monosodium salt of 3-pyridyl-1-hydroxyethylidene-1,1- bisphosphonic acid in an amorphous form according to claim 6, having the water content of 4 to 7 % by weight.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The monosodium salt of 3-pyridyl-1-hydroxyethylidene-1,1- bisphosphonic acid in an amorphous form according to claim 3, having the water content of 7 to 10 % by weight.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The monosodium salt of 3-pyridyl-1-hydroxyethylidene-1,1- bisphosphonic acid in an amorphous form according to claim 8, having the water content of 9 to 10 % by weight.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): A method of preparing the substance of claim 3, comprising heating 3-pyridyl-1- hydroxyethylidene-1,1-bisphosphonic acid of formula I



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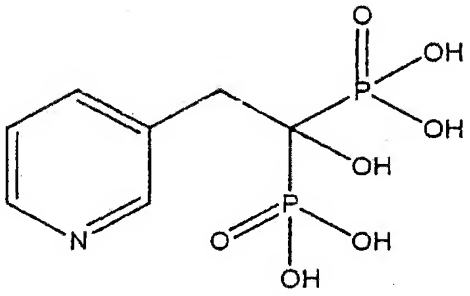
in the crystalline form to a temperature of 60 to 200 °C for 1 to 48 hours.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 10, wherein the crystalline substance of formula I is used in the form of pentahydrate.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 10, wherein the crystalline substance of formula I is heated to a temperature of 120 to 140 °C.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 11, wherein the pentahydrate of the substance of formula I is heated to a temperature of 130 °C for 4 to 8 hours.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended/Allowed): A method of preparing the monosodium salt of 3-pyridyl-1-hydroxyethylidene-1,1- bisphosphonic acid in an amorphous form ~~of claim 4~~, having two sharp peaks at 2θ angles of 5.856 and 6.99 °, a broad band at 2θ 17.6 °, and a plateau without peaks between 2θ angles of 23 - 35 °, wherein the method comprises ~~comprising~~ heating the monosodium salt of 3-pyridyl-1- hydroxyethylidene-1,1-bisphosphonic acid of formula I



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in the crystalline form to a temperature of 50 to 120 °C, under a pressure of 10 to 100 kPa, for 1 to 48 hours.

Claim 15 (Allowed): The method according to claim 14, wherein the crystalline form of formula I is the pentahydrate.

Claim 16 (Allowed): The method according to claim 14, wherein the crystalline form of formula I is heated to a temperature of 50 to 100 °C, at a gradually increasing rate.

Claim 17 (Allowed): The method according to claim 15, wherein the pentahydrate of formula I is heated at 110 °C for 18 to 48 hours.

Claim 18 (Allowed): The method according to claim 15, wherein said heating is carried out under a reduced pressure of 10 to 30 kPa.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn): A method of preparing the substance of claim 8, comprising spray drying a solution of risedronate sodium in a stream of gas.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 19, wherein the spray drying is applied to a solution of risedronate sodium having the concentration of 1 to 250 g/l in water, optionally in a mixture of water with a C1 to C4 alcohol.

Claim 21 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 19, wherein the solution of risedronate is heated to 20 to 100 °C before feeding to the drier.

Claim 22 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 19, wherein the drying is carried at a temperature of the feed nozzle region of the drier ranging from 70 to 220 °C.

Claim 23 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 19, wherein the gas outlet from the spray dryer has a temperature of 40 to 150 °C.

Claim 24 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 22, wherein the temperature of the outlet gases from the drier is maintained at 50 to 70 °C.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): A pharmaceutical formulation, comprising the monosodium salt of 3-pyridyl-1-hydroxyethylidene-1,1- bisphosphonic acid in an amorphous form of claim 1 and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 25, wherein the carrier is a combination of mannitol and microcrystalline cellulose in tablet form.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 25, comprising 5 or 35 mg of the monosodium salt of 3-pyridyl-1-hydroxyethylidene-1,1-bisphosphonic acid in an amorphous form.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The monosodium salt of 3-pyridyl-1-hydroxyethylidene-1,1- bisphosphonic acid in an amorphous form according to claim 1, showing a characteristic broad obtuse peak at 2θ angles ranging from 15 to 25 ° and two sharp peaks at 2θ angles of 5.856 and 6.99°.

Claim 29 (New): The monosodium salt of 3-pyridyl-1-hydroxyethylidene-1,1-bisphosphonic acid in an amorphous form, having an X-ray diffraction pattern showing a broad obtuse peak at 2θ angles ranging from 15 to 25 °, having bands at 3084, 2936, 1633, 1051 and 120 cm^{-1} in the Raman spectrum, and having expanded bands at 139, 125, 75 and 37 ppm in the ^{13}C CP MAS NMR spectrum.